Dear Ted,

8/17/82

Sorry I wasn't able to answer sooner but as I told you, I have to spend mornings in theraphy for the leg and I'm buried in FOIA affidavits. I've taken today from that to try to catch up with more than 3 weeks of letters.

Asking for the files on you is the easy part. Getting them may be more difficult.

You can write the same letter to the FBI and the CIA, but with the FBI you should also send a separate one to the New York Field Office. It can have the same words and can even be a carbon or xerox copy. (The CIA's address is Washington, not McLean, for its mail.

Give your name, any aliases, address and recent addresses of the past, Social Security number, and say that under both FOIA and PA you want copies of all records of any kind, however or wherever files on or about you. And that, really, is all you have to do. Both will probably claim backlogs, so you'll just have to wait. In time they'll tell you what they have, if anything, and how much it costs, at 10¢ a page.

If the FBI has a file on you, the New York office will be what they call the #office of Origin," Other offices would report to it, for example, if they covered one of your speeches. (I'm sure they did less of this than most of us think they did because they didn't care all that much unless they expected to be hurt.)

However, the field offices kept FBIHQ informed, so they also could have files.

Sometimes the records you get indicate where other records are, so you can go back again and ask for them.

The CIA stonewalls even more than the FBI.

Above all don't argue about the JFK case with them or you'll get less. Let them think whatever they want to think. And don't use and strong language because they can stall you more if you turn them off.

I got some of the files on me, but they have more, and what they have can embarrass them so they sit tight and let me sue, which I'd not now in a position to do. Some of it is pretty wild, too!

If and when you get anything, if you'd like me to go over it and tell you if I see evidence of more, or explain anything, just send me copies and tell me what you want to know. I can tell you, for example, what the FBI's numbers mean.

Hope you and Anita are both well and happy.

Best wishes and good luck,